

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1405

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008

NUMBER OF LANDLINE AND MOBILE PHONE CONNECTIONS

Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of landline and mobile phone connections taken by the subscribers from BSNL and MTNL in the country during the last two years, as on date;
- (b) the number of telephone subscribers of these companies in the country, as on date;
- (c) the annual growth rate of subscribers in percentage of these companies;
- (d) the total subscribers of Private and Public Sector Telecom Companies in the country and the number of subscribers of public and private sector companies separately;
- (e) whether the private sector companies are more active in attracting the customers in comparison to the public sector companies; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the public sector companies to increase the number of subscribers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The number of Landline, WLL and mobile phone connections provided by BSNL and MTNL during last two years and during 2007-08 up to Jan.2008 is given below:

(In Lakh)

Sl. No.	Year	Landline	WLL	Mobile	Total
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BSNL

1.	2005-06	-4.36	9.44	77.16	82.24
2.	2006-07	-16.84	9.84	102.64	95.64
3.	2007-08 (upto Jan.08)	-21.31	6.81	63.20	48.70

MTNL

2005-06	3.64	11.69	15.33
2006-07	3.91	10.62	14.53
2007-08 (upto Jan.08)	2.81	6.65	9.46

(b) The number of telephone customers of BSNL and MTNL as on 31.01.2008 is 695.94 lakhs and 68.72 lakhs respectively.

(c) The annual growth rate of subscribers in terms of percentage is 13.86 and 7.99 of BSNL and MTNL respectively as on 31.12.2007.

(d) The total subscribers of private and public sector Telecom Companies in the country and the number of subscribers of public and private sector Telecom Companies separately as on 31.1.2008 are given in the Annexure.

(e)&(f) Yes Sir, the growth rate of private sector is more than public sector. BSNL and MTNL has introduced many schemes at competitive rates for fixed telephones including WLL considering the need of customers and prevailing market conditions from time to time. BSNL and MTNL have taken following steps to increase the number of subscribers:

i. Reduction in the tariff for all basic services.

- ii. Launch of BSNL ONE INDIA tariff scheme.
- iii. Deduction in rental for Sulabh Plan.
- iv. Empowering CGMs of Telecom Circles to launch Circle based competitive tariffs for basic and cellular services to increase the number of subscribers.
- v. Improving the legacy PSTN Network by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required.
- vi. New tariff plans both in landline and cellular based PCOs are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.
- vii. Expansion of Mobile and Broadband network including other Value added services such as VoIP, IPTV, convergent billing etc.